

Eastern European Satellites Not Without Food Shortages

By GERD KRIWANEK

United Press International
Vienna—(UPI)—The Eastern European satellites, like their Russian taskmasters, are not without their food shortages today. But, as in the Soviet Union, current shortages are neither critical nor without solution.

This is the opinion of seasoned East European observers here.

Exactly what solutions will be employed remains to be seen. In the meantime, the satellite rulers know, or should know, what not to do—namely not to repeat the errors that have led to the shortages, in varying degrees, from Vladivostok to the Berlin wall.

It is too easy to blame it all on communist agricultural theory. This, in fact, has been successful at times, though it cannot be absolved of all blame in the present circumstances.

But observers of the Eastern bloc are inclined to attribute the current shortages to a number of factors, all of which—except the weather—stem from communist decisions about how life should be run on communist territory.

Cannot Produce

Boiled down to the briefest analysis, they say, it means that communist collective farms simply cannot produce as much and as well as privately owned farms.

It is also too easy, these observers believe, to say—as Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev said last week—that the Western "imperialists," by their alleged threat of war, have forced the communist camp to forego butter for guns.

But there is an element of truth in that argument. Russia, as much as America, finds itself under a compulsion to be militarily strong. Soviet strategists do not expect to be taken as seriously as they are taken if the country's industrial might does not produce armaments.

But armaments, while the costliest item in the Soviet budget, are not the only one detracting from the food supply.

Also Helped

The tremendous efforts in space exploration and, to a lesser extent, the need to subsidize underdeveloped countries and earn foreign exchange have also helped to make the Soviet harder bare.

What is true of the Soviet Union is true, in varying degrees, of the satellites. If Czechoslovakia is to produce, say, machine tools, it may have to cut down on sausages.

From a communist point of view, this should not happen. The Eastern bloc, under the collectivization of agriculture, is supposed to be able to produce more butter as well as more guns.

In practice, this has not worked.

If it had Khrushchev would not have had to order increases in the price of meat and butter, observers said. But he did, and the Soviet satellites are now feeling the repercussions.

Buy Staples

Polish housewives went to state stores in droves to buy flour, sugar and other staples in large quantities after Khrushchev's price rise announcement. Rationing was imposed a day or two later.

In East Germany, where many children go without as much milk as they should have and meat is found in butcher shops only once a week, the regime imposed "public control," or rationing, of these products last Wednesday.

Thus far, in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, there has been no announcement of new controls. But unofficial rationing has already been in force on some products for years—thanks to the law of supply and demand.

Breakdown

A country-by-country breakdown of the food situation in the satellites follows:

East Germany: Last Wednesday East German Communists admitted to widespread milk, butter and meat shortages. The party newspaper, Neues Deutschland, announced the imminent imposition of "public control."

It said cattle slaughtering was far below what it should have been, private sources said many butcher shops had meat only on week ends.

These sources said potatoes—as usual—are scarce. The weekly per capita allotment of 10 pounds often falls to be met and more drastic official rationing may be imposed.

East Germans who write to relatives in the West ask for such staples as dried peas and beans, which are considered a luxury, while in the West they cost next to nothing.

Poland: The "scare" buying of flour, sugar and other staples is considered unwarranted by Western observers. As in all the satellites, rumors invariably touch off a rush on the items that are supposed to be getting scarcer or more expensive. The Soviet price hikes set off the latest rumors.

Poland is, in fact, the least collectivized of the satellites and production has risen in recent years. The government's decision to limit housewives' purchases of flour, sugar and other items was said to have been taken to ease the strain on the transport facilities that bring these products to the stores.

Nevertheless, Poland is not without its farm problems.

Czechoslovakia: The present situation does not appear critical. Meat, as in all the satellites, is perennially scarce. But it was apparently scarcer last summer, when travelers from the West reported long queues of housewives in front of butcher shops to obtain a slice of meat for the week end.

Shortages

However, in recent months, shortages of flour, vegetables and fruit have also been reported.

Czechs who are fond of dumplings and other pasty dishes, were advised by party officials to alter their diets because of the grain situation.

As in the case of Poland, the Czech food supply still depends to a considerable extent on private farms. In the province of Slovakia, for instance, between 35 and 40 per cent of milk and pork production was private. However, authorities say 95 per cent of the country's arable land is collectivized.

Hungary: Western reporters in Hungary do not report any food shortages that could be termed critical. In fact, they say, the average Hungarian is eating better than before the 1956 uprising—and probably as a result of it.

Diets Offset

The rise in wages has outstripped the rise in food costs. Traditional drab diets of the poor are now offset by occasional splurges at restaurants. Factory, office and school meals are cheap but plain.

Imported food from caviar to cognac is not hard to come by in Budapest and the larger towns, though, of course, it is out of the reach of most Hungarians, who spend 40 to 50 per cent of their income on plain food.

Meat, dairy products and eggs—eggs sometimes disappear from store shelves for months at a time—are the perennial scare foods. No one is starving, but official sources say agricultural production has fallen since collectivization.

Romania: The difficulties here, recent travelers to the West say, are due mainly to distribution.

Fertile Land

Romania abounds in fertile land. It claims to have raised farm production considerably since the Communist takeover. Meat, however, is usually in short supply.

Bulgaria: Meat and dairy products are in very short supply because of what authorities say was a "miscalculation" in assuring fodder. Fruit and vegetables, however, are said to be in good supply. But the country as a whole now faces a major drought. There has been no rainfall for the past month.

Albania: There has been little news in recent weeks on harvest prospects and the food situation in the tiny Balkan state, aside from the usual party appeals for fulfillment of agricultural quotas.

It is always claimed production targets are over-subscribed. Only 12 per cent of this mountainous land is arable and 80 per cent of that was collectivized in 1958. Between 1960 and 1965 agricultural production is supposed to increase 64 per cent, a modest aim by communist standards.

Albanians thrive mainly on millet, which grows under the worst climate conditions, and fish.

Committee Reports

\$1,262 in Donations

The Citizens for Home Rule committee has submitted a list of donations totaling \$1,262.67, the Jackson county elections department said Wednesday.

Major donations include A. S. V. Carpenter \$328.32, Otto Frohnmayer, \$25; Big Pines Lumber company, \$25; Rogue Valley Land company, \$25; Trowbridge and Flynn Electric company, \$25; John W. Snider, \$25; Robert C. Ross, \$50; Bessonette Construction company, \$50; Fluhrer Properties, \$50; Crater Lake Motors, \$100; League of Women Voters, \$50; Glenn W. Jackson, \$50; Reter Fruit company, \$50; and Henry F. Padgugan Jr., \$100.

State Committee

Sets Friday Hearing

Grants Pass—Josephine county problems will be presented at a public hearing in Grants Pass Friday of the Legislative Interim Committee on Small Business. Sen. Richard E. Groener, Milwaukee, committee chairman, has announced.

The hearing will start at 9 a.m. in the Josephine County courthouse.

Sen. E. D. Potts of Josephine county, a member of the committee, is in charge of arrangements.

Mayor Chris Gill of Grants Pass and Rep. Sidney Bazett of Josephine county will speak. Spokesmen for the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce will be President James Basker and Manager Jack McMahon, who will speak on general needs of Josephine county, legislation to permit cities to contribute to area promotion associations and problems pertaining to the State Industrial Accident Commission, the personal property tax on inventories and the lumber industry.

Truck Dynamiter

Enters Prison to Commence Term

Salem—UPI—Levi McDonald, former Portland stereotyper negotiator, entered the Oregon Penitentiary Tuesday night, a day before a mandate from the U.S. Supreme Court upholding two dynamiting convictions was to arrive in Multnomah County.

The high court last month rejected his appeals for review of his convictions in connection with the 1960 dynamiting of trucks in Portland and Oregon City that were used by struck Portland newspapers.

The Supreme Court action in refusing to review the State Supreme Court rulings left standing two 10-year prison terms.

More Time

The Supreme Court order was expected here today. McDonald could have obtained more time to put his affairs in order before going to prison.

Four other men involved in the bombings, Charles, William and Edward Snyder, brothers, and Gerald Couzens, drew prison terms two years ago and have served their sentences.

Warden Clarence T. Gladden said McDonald entered the prison quietly at 7:05 p.m. PST Tuesday.

He was immediately taken to the admissions and orientation section where he will be kept for 30 days before being transferred to regular status. This is routine for all prisoners, Gladden said.

June Family Fun Time

Remember... Red Cross Bloodmobile Here in Central Point, Wed., June 20

Betty Crocker—All Except Angel Food

CAKE MIX 3 for 1⁰⁰

Gold 'n Sweet Safflower

MARGARINE lb. 39^c

Snowdrift

SHORTENING 3 lb. tin 59^c

NEW! Betty Crocker SAFE-O-LIFE Safflower OIL 28-oz. Bottle 79^c See Page 3-A

Valley's

Fradelis FROZEN DINNERS All Flavors 39^c

Gold Medal

Flour 10 lb. Bag 89^c

Betty Crocker

Instant Mashed POTATOES 7-oz. Pkg. 29^c

Betty Crocker

COOKIE and MUFFIN MIX 3 for 1⁰⁰

Campbell's

SOUPS All Varieties—Reg. Size 5 FOR 77^c

Big 'G' Cereals Regular 33c 4 for 98^c

Bisquick Large Box 3 for 1⁰⁰

Farm Fresh Produce

Potatoes U.S. No. 2 20 lbs. 69^c

Cantaloupe Vine Ripe... ea. 19^c

Peaches Local... lb. 19^c

Cabbage Solid Heads... lb. 7^c

Full of Juice

LEMONS 29^c DOZ.

Amara

Motorola

Easy

RCA Victor Color

Tappan

Hoover

126 East Pine

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LOTS OF FREE PARKING

take it quick, cool & casual with dairy foods

June is Dairy Month

George Shaw, veteran Minnesota Vikings quarterback, and 1961-1962 Oregon Daily Princess Barbara Steinfield, toast good health with a tall glass of milk. George relies upon the quick energy milk gives him during the season... and after the season when he's home in Portland working with June S. Jones Investment Company.

Polish yourself a cool glass of milk right now. Pour it to the brim from a chilled, frosty pitcher. Taste the natural, sweet goodness. Feel the energy-giving, nerve-soothing benefits. Milk belongs on your daily menu. Milk travels so fast from pitcher to glass to your good health!

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